

Indicator RECOMMENDED	Current Use of Alcohol by Persons Aged 12 and Older
<b>Justification</b>	Approximately 100,000 deaths each year in the U.S. are attributed to alcohol misuse. Studies have shown that youth who begin drinking at an early age are at increased risk of problem drinking later in life. Purchase and consumption of alcohol by persons under the age of 21 is illegal.
<b>Definition</b>	Percent of persons aged 12 and older reporting any use of alcohol within the past 30 days
<b>Data Source</b>	National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
<b>Frequency</b>	Annual
<b>Geographic Levels</b>	National and State
<b>Demographic Categories</b>	Age
<b>Strengths</b>	NSDUH is the only national source that currently provides prevalence of use estimates for both adolescents and adults for every state.
<b>Limitations</b>	State-level estimates for most states are based on relatively small samples. Although augmented by model-based estimation procedures, estimates for specific age groups have relatively low precision (i.e., large confidence intervals). The estimates are provided directly by SAMHSA and raw data that could be used for alternative calculations (e.g., demographic subgroups) are not available. The estimates are subject to bias due to self-report and non-response (refusal/no answer).